

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: EMBASSY FY 77 STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

1. DEPARTMENT AND USIA REQUEST THAT RAYMOND BENSON, DURING HIS UPCOMING CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON, BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS EMBASSY'S STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS IN FY 77. THE BUDGET PERMITTING, CU IS PLANNING SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR SOVIET PROGRAMS IN FY 76, AND FURTHER INCREASES IN FY 77. THESE FUNDS WOULD PROVIDE FOR FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AMONG OTHERS: AN EXPANDED FULBRIGHT LECTURER EXCHANGE INCLUDING NEW PROGRAMS WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND ACADEMY OF SCIENCES; AN INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM THAT WOULD BRING INCREASED NUMBERS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOVIET LEADERS TO THE US-AS INDIVIDUALS OR IN SMALL-GROUPS,

AN AUGMENTED AMERICAN SPECIALIST PROGRAM, AND BILATERAL SEMINARS IN EDUCATION AND OTHER FIELDS. WE ALSO ANTICI-

PATE NEW PRIVATE PROGRAMS BETWEEN US AND SOVIET ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS ALONG LINES OF SUNY EXCHANGE. FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT IT APPEARS THAT SOVIETS WILL HAVE HIGH INTEREST IN EXPANDING THESE AND OTHER ONGOING RECIPROCAL

EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. WE ARE CONCERNED HOWEVER THAT THE EMBASSY MAY NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY PERSONNEL TO SUPPORT THESE PROGRAMS IN MOSCOW.

2. BENSON SHOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS IREX PROPOSAL TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN MOSCOW TO SERVICE NEEDS OF ITS GRANTEES IN USSR AND ACT AS LIAISON WITH MINISTRY AND ACADEMY. IREX ANTICIPATES INCREASED ACTIVITIES RESULTING FROM ITS BINATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES. WHILE DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT OPENING RECIPROCAL SOVIET OFFICE IN NEW YORK, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING BENSON CONVEY EMBASSY VIEWS ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH AN IREX OFFICE, IF OPENED IN MOSCOW, WOULD ACTUALLY ALLEVIATE EMBASSY WORKLOAD IN SERVING THE GROWING US ACADEMIC COMMUNITY IN THE SOVIET UNION. KISSINGER

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